REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 18 and to make minor editorial changes to the claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 16, 2003

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1. A safety connection intended for suspending objects, for instance curtain rails, rods, towel racks and the like, the safety connection (2) comprising at least one first (3) and one second (4) retaining element, the one retaining element (3; 4) after mounting, being coupled to the object (1) to be suspended, while the other retaining element (4; 3) after mounting, is connected to an environment, the first (3) and second (4) retaining element being detachably connected to each other such that, under the influence of a particular tensile force (F) applied to those elements (3, 4), these retaining elements (3, 4) disconnect, [characterized in that] wherein the second retaining element (4) is provided with at least one resilient lip (5), while the first and second retaining elements (3, 4) are arranged to cooperate via that at least one resilient lip (5) for effecting said detachable coupling of the retaining elements (3, 4).

2. A safety connection according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the at least one resilient lip (5) is an integral part of the second retaining element (4).

3. A safety connection according to claim 1 [or 2, characterized in that], wherein, after mounting, the at least one resilient lip (5) extends, on average, in a direction including an angle (γ) with a vertical plane in the range of approximately 10 - 45°.

4. A safety connection according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the at least one resilient lip (5), after mounting, extends, on average, in a direction including an angle (γ) with a vertical plane in the range of approximately 15° - 30°.

5. A safety connection according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the at least one resilient lip (5) is manufactured from plastic.

6. A safety connection according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein a front end (7) of the at least one resilient lip (5) of the second retaining element (4) touches a slide-off surface (6) of the first retaining element (3).

7. A safety connection according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein said front lip end (7) comprises a sliding surface (8) which is substantially parallel to at least the part of said slide-off surface (6) of the first retaining element (3).

8. A safety connection according to claim 6 [or 7, characterized in that], wherein said slide-off surface (6) of the first retaining element (3) after mounting, viewed in vertical cross section, includes an angle (α) with a vertical plane in the range of 45° - 70°.

9. A safety connection according to claim 8, [characterized in that] wherein that said angle (α) is in the range of 60° - 70°.

10. A safety connection according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the first retaining element (3), after mounting, extends at least partly through a substantially vertical passage (9) of the second retaining element (4).

11. A safety connection according to claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein the first retaining element (3) is provided with a widened head (10) located, after mounting, above said passage (9), which head (10) touches a part, such as the front end (7) of the at least one resilient lip (5) of the second retaining element (4).

12. A safety connection according to [at least claims 6 and 11, characterized in that] claim 6, wherein the widened head (10) of the first retaining element (3) is provided with said slide-off surface (6).

13. A safety connection according to at least claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein the second retaining element (4) is provided with a number of resilient lips (5) extending

obliquely towards each other for forming a constriction of said passage (9) of the second retaining element (4).

14. A safety connection according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the first and second retaining elements (3, 4) are each of rotation-symmetrical design relative to [a] an axis (17) of symmetry, which is vertical, at least after mounting.

15. A safety connection according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the retaining element (4) connected to the environment is mounted in a tube of pendant (12) having an inside diameter of less than 2 cm.

16. A safety connection according to claim 15, [characterized in that] wherein said tube or pendant (12) has a diameter in the range of 10 - 15 mm.

17. A curtain rail system, provided with at least one safety connection according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1.

18. A safety connection for coupling objects, for instance rails, rods, towel racks and the like, to an environment such as a ceiling and/or a wall, [characterized in that] wherein the connecting device (30) is provided with at least one safety connection according to [any one of claims 1 - 16] claim 1.

19. A connecting device according to claim 18, [characterized in that] wherein the connecting device (30) is designed for supporting an upper side of the object (1) to be coupled to the environment at a front end (108).